

Nebraska members of Congress have again earned high marks for their representation of state businesses and manufacturers, according to Barry L. Kennedy, President of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Both U.S. senators and all three congressmen from Nebraska scored higher than 80 percent on the latest voting scorecards compiled by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). The State Chamber is an affiliate of both non-partisan organizations, which annually track federal legislation that would impact their members' profitability and competitiveness.

"We are pleased by the strong support provided by the Nebraska congressional delegation," Kennedy said. "At nearly every turn, they have voted in favor of pro-growth, pro-business, pro-manufacturing policies that produce Nebraska jobs and enhance our economic competitiveness."

On the 2006 scorecard recently released by the U.S. Chamber, Senator Chuck Hagel earned a 100 percent for his votes on important issues such as tax relief, medical liability reform and small business health plans. In his 10 years of Senate service, Hagel has a cumulative score of 96 percent from the U.S. Chamber. Hagel also earned a 100 percent score in 2006 from NAM for his votes on proposals affecting the manufacturing sector, including bills on domestic energy production, transportation infrastructure and greenhouse gas mandates.

Senator Ben Nelson received an 83 percent grade from the U.S. Chamber and an 84 percent score from NAM.

Representative Jeff Fortenberry and former Representative Tom Osborne both earned 100 percent on NAM's 2006 scorecard, while Representative Lee Terry earned a 92 percent rating. Meanwhile, Terry and Osborne earned a 100 percent score from the U.S. Chamber, while Fortenberry garnered a 93 percent rating. After eight years in the House, Terry has a cumulative score of 92 percent from the U.S. Chamber.

All five members of the 2006 Nebraska congressional delegation received the U.S. Chamber's Spirit of Enterprise Award.

On May 8-10, the State Chamber will hold its annual visit to Washington, D.C. Attendees will take part in the traditional Nebraska Breakfast, as well as a luncheon with the congressional delegation. In addition, State Chamber members will receive legislative briefings at the headquarters of NAM and the U.S. Chamber.

The State Chamber is Nebraska's largest statewide business association - representing individuals, large and small companies, other state associations and local chambers of commerce. With an underlying grassroots membership of more than 100,000 people, the State Chamber has proudly served as the voice of Nebraska's business community more than 95 years.

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